BOOM! STUDIOS™

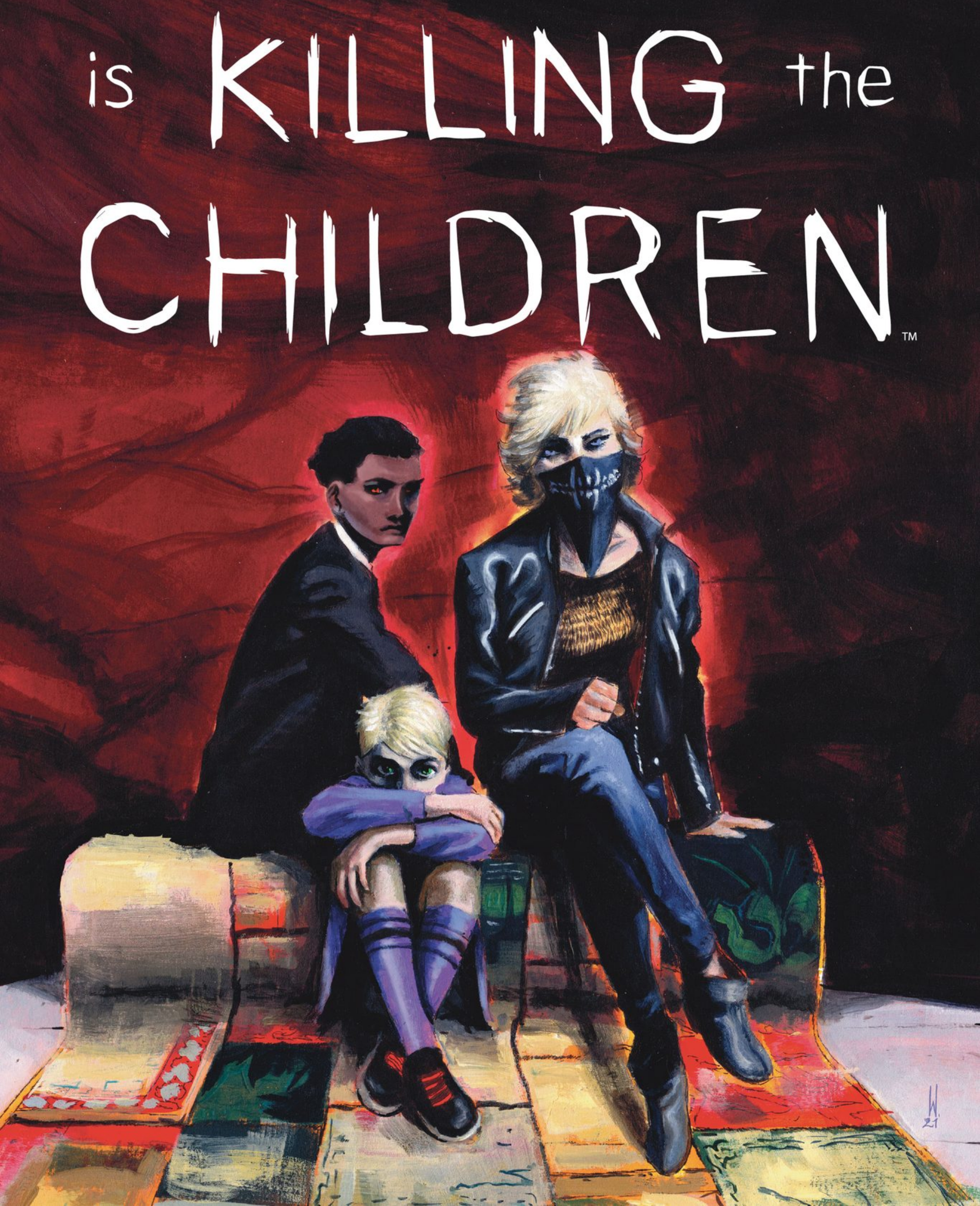
JAMES TYNION IV

WERTHER DELL'EDERA

MIQUEL MUERTO

Nº 17

SOMETHING is KILLING the CHILDREN™



RRRRRR

RRRRRRRRRR!

THEY'RE SHOUTING IN THERE.

I CAN HEAR THEM.

SHE WASN'T SUPPOSED TO RECRUIT YOU LIKE SHE DID. THERE'S A WHOLE PROCESS.

THAT'S WHAT THEY'RE SHOUTING ABOUT.

YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO PASS A TEST BEFORE YOU CAN COME TO THE HOUSE OF SLAUGHTER.

I DON'T LIKE TESTS.

I DON'T THINK ***ANYBODY*** LIKES TESTS. BUT THAT'S NOT THE ***POINT*** OF TESTS. THEY'RE NOT THERE FOR YOU TO LIKE. THEY'RE THERE TO PROVE YOU'RE ***GOOD ENOUGH.***

EVERYONE ELSE IN THIS HOUSE? THEY WERE GOOD ENOUGH TO PASS THAT TEST AND GET IN.

JUST LEAVE ME ALONE.

IF THEY LET YOU STAY, IT'S ONLY BECAUSE JESSICA FELT ***SORRY*** FOR YOU.

AIIIEEEEEEEE!

WHAT ON *EARTH* IS GOING ON OUT HERE?

SHE KICKED ME *IN THE BALLS!*

HAH!

FOR THE LOVE OF GOD.

THUMP

YOU SAID I COULD BULLY HIM.

I MEANT MORE LIKE YOU CAN MAKE FUN OF HIM A LITTLE, ONCE YOU GET TO KNOW HIM.

OH, OKAY.

BOTH OF YOU, FOLLOW ME BACK TO OUR ROOM.

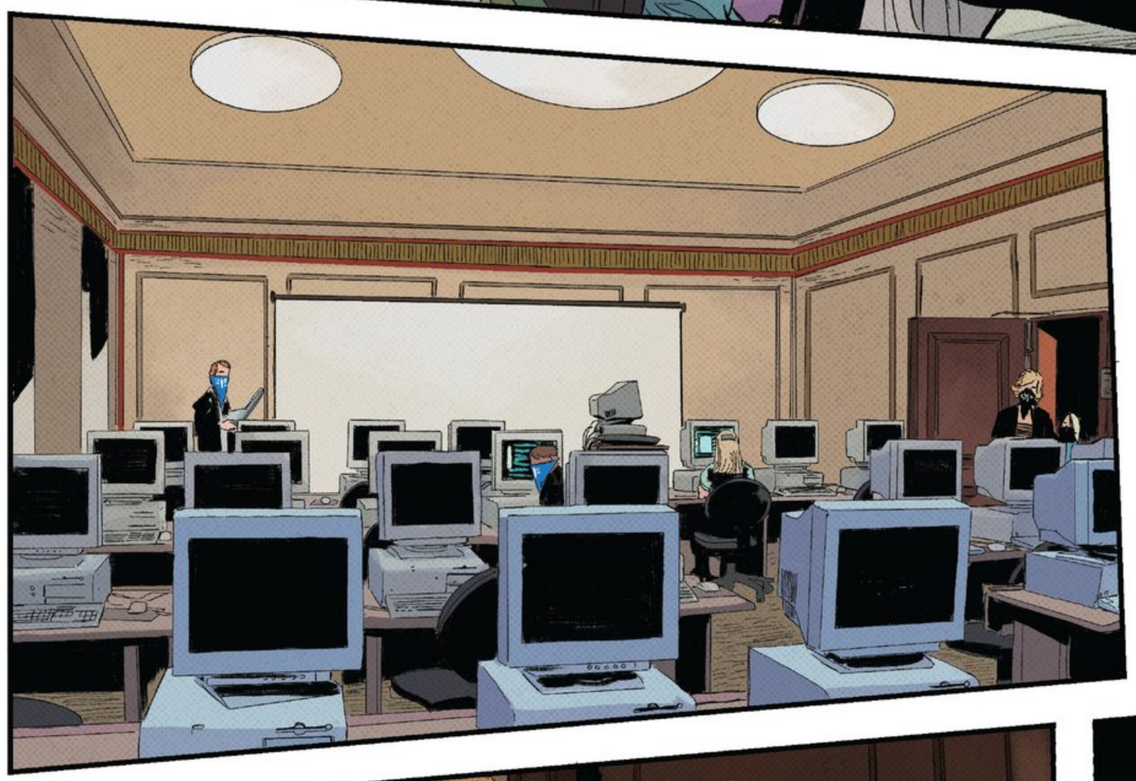
I DON'T WANT TO GO ANYWHERE WITH ***HER.***

CUT IT OUT, AARON. I'M NOT IN THE MOOD.

THE CAR WILL BE READY AT 6:00 A.M. TOMORROW TO TAKE HER TO ***THE FARM.***

YEAH.

SOMETHING is KILLING the CHILDREN



Black
Room

YOU CAN TAKE YOUR MASK OFF IN HERE.

OKAY.

THIS ROOM IS OUR LITTLE SANCTUARY IN THE HOUSE OF SLAUGHTER.
THE ONLY PEOPLE WITH A KEY TO THAT DOOR ARE THE PEOPLE IN OUR BRANCH OF THE FAMILY.
NO MATTER HOW BAD IT GETS OUT THERE, YOU'LL BE OKAY IN HERE.

OKAY.

AND WHAT ABOUT ME? THIS IS ALSO SUPPOSED TO BE *MY* SANCTUARY, BUT YOU'VE BROUGHT IN THE *ENEMY.*

KEEP TALKING LIKE THAT, AND I'LL LET HER KICK YOU AGAIN.

HMPH.

ERICA WATCHED HER PARENTS AND HER BEST FRIEND DIE YESTERDAY. YOU KNOW WHAT SHE IS GOING TO HAVE TO GO THROUGH TOMORROW.

CAN WE DIAL THINGS DOWN A FEW NOTCHES?

YEAH. OKAY.

WHAT DO I HAVE TO GO THROUGH TOMORROW?

WE'LL GET TO THAT IN A MINUTE.

HEY, ADELAIDE...WE HAVE A NEW MEMBER OF OUR FAMILY.

ERICA, MEET ADELAIDE. SHE TRAINED ME AND CECILIA TO FIGHT MONSTERS, BACK WHEN CECILIA WAS A BLACK MASK.

BACK IN THE DAY, SHE WAS UNSTOPPABLE. THE UNSTOPPABLE ***ADDA SLAUGHTER.*** SHE WAS MY HERO. I'LL TELL YOU SOME OF THE GOOD STORIES SOMETIME.

SHE'S... CRYING.

YEAH.

THEY'RE NOT ALL GOOD STORIES.

I PROMISE. I WON'T LET ANYTHING BAD HAPPEN TO HER.

OKAY, SIT DOWN. WE HAVE TO TALK ABOUT YOUR INITIATION.

INITIATION?

YEAH.

OKAY, SO...YOU NOW KNOW THE BIGGEST SECRET IN THE WORLD.

MONSTERS ARE REAL, AND THEY HUNT AND EAT CHILDREN.

YOU ALSO KNOW THE ***SECOND*** BIGGEST SECRET IN THE WORLD. THAT THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO FIGHT THE MONSTERS.

WE CALL OURSELVES THE ***ORDER OF ST. GEORGE,*** AFTER THE STORY OF ST. GEORGE AND THE DRAGON. DO YOU KNOW THAT STORY?

NO.

OKAY... SO...BASICALLY A LONG, LONG TIME AGO, THERE'S THIS OLD TOWN THAT WAS BEING ATTACKED BY A DRAGON.

AND THEY HAVE TO KEEP FEEDING THE DRAGON THEIR CHILDREN IN ORDER TO STOP IT FROM DESTROYING THE WHOLE TOWN.

AND ULTIMATELY, THE LEADER OF THE TOWN NEEDS TO SEND HIS DAUGHTER DOWN TO BE EATEN.

BUT THEN ST. GEORGE SHOWS UP, AND STOPS THE DRAGON, AND BINDS IT TO HIS WILL.

HE TAKES THE DRAGON TO THE TOWN AND MAKES THEM ALL SWEAR AN OATH TO GOD, AND ONCE THEY DO, HE KILLS THE DRAGON ONCE AND FOR ALL.

THE VERSION OF THE STORY PEOPLE OUTSIDE THE ORDER TELL IS THAT ON THAT SPOT HE BUILT A CHURCH, BUT ***WE*** KNOW THAT'S WHERE THE ORDER OF ST. GEORGE WAS STARTED.

HE TAUGHT THE PEOPLE IN THAT TOWN HOW TO FIGHT BACK AGAINST THE MONSTERS...

AND THE OATH HE MADE THEM SWEAR WAS AN OATH TO KEEP THE MEANS OF KILLING MONSTERS, AND THE EXISTENCE OF MONSTERS, SECRET FROM THE WORLD.

IF YOU WANT TO BE IN THE ORDER, YOU ARE GOING TO NEED TO SWEAR THE SAME OATH...

YOU HAVE TO PROMISE THAT YOU ARE GOING TO KEEP THE SECRET. NO MATTER HOW SCARED YOU ARE, YOU CAN'T REVEAL THE TRUTH.

I PROMISE I WON'T TELL.

I WISH IT WAS LIKE THAT. THAT IT WAS SO SIMPLE...

WHAT ARE THEY GOING TO DO?

THEY ARE GOING TO TRY AND MAKE YOU VERY, VERY SCARED, AND THEY ARE GOING TO TRY AND MAKE YOU TALK. BUT YOU NEED TO KEEP THE SECRET.

I CAN'T REALLY SAY MORE THAN THAT.

IS IT GOING TO HURT?

YES.

AND IF YOU SURVIVE, YOU ARE GOING TO BE MARKED AS AN *INITIATE* OF THE ORDER. THEY'RE GOING TO GIVE YOU A *TATTOO* TO MARK YOU AS ONE OF US.

THAT'S GOING TO HURT, TOO.

WHERE AM I GOING TO GET A TATTOO?

WHEREVER YOU WANT.

DID YOU GET ONE?

YEAH. IT'S ON MY ARM.

SEE?

COOL.

I WANT YOU TO REST.

I SLEPT IN THE CAR.

I KNOW, BUT A LOT HAS HAPPENED TO YOU, AND THERE'S A LOT MORE THAT'S ABOUT TO HAPPEN TO YOU.

YOU'LL HAVE A ROOM OF YOUR OWN HERE, SOON, BUT FOR NOW YOU'LL STAY WITH ME. OKAY?

DO YOU HAVE ANY DVDs?

YEAH. I'VE GOT SOME GOOD ONES, TOO.

WHAT ABOUT...?

I'M GOING TO PUT YOUR OCTOPUS ON THE MANTLE WITH THE REST OF THE TOTEMS.

SO THEY CAN TALK TOGETHER A BIT.

THE RABBIT IS MINE. I CALL HIM ***THUMPER***, LIKE FROM *BAMBI*.

THE OWL BELONGS TO AARON. HIS NAME IS ***HOOTIE***.

AND THE DOG IS ADELAIDE'S. HER NAME IS ***WUPPY PUPPY***.

IT LOOKS LIKE THERE'S ROOM FOR A LOT MORE...

YEAH. WELL, OUR BRANCH OF THE FAMILY IS A LITTLE WEIRD. BUT YOU'VE GOT ENOUGH TO CHEW ON ALREADY.

RRRRRR...

CAN...CAN WE KEEP HIM IN THE TUPPERWARE?

I'M SORRY, NO.

IT'S IRRESPONSIBLE.

YOU'RE IRRESPONSIBLE.

YOU KNOW THAT'S NOT TRUE. YOU JUST WISH IT WERE.

SO YOU AGREE. YOU THINK I SHOULD HAVE KILLED A 12-YEAR-OLD GIRL.

KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN, JESSICA! JESUS...

YOU TOLD ME YOU WANTED ME TO EXPAND MY BRANCH OF THE FAMILY...

I MEANT THAT YOU SHOULD DO IT IN THE USUAL WAY.

I DID THAT ONCE.

AND AARON IS A FINE YOUNG MEMBER OF THE ORDER.

HE SPENDS MOST OF HIS TIME SITTING IN HIS ROOM CRYING, AND THEN ***BEATING HIMSELF UP*** FOR CRYING. OR ACTUALLY GOING OUT AND GETTING BEAT UP BY ***YOUR KIDS.***

IT'LL TOUGHEN HIM UP.

IT WORKED ON YOU.

I GUESS.

HOW BAD WAS IT...THE SCENE?

THERE WAS A LITTLE GIRL RIPPED IN HALF AND THERE WAS ONE WHO WASN'T.

I COULDN'T DO IT. I COULDN'T LIVE WITH MYSELF...

OH FUCK...

YOU'RE A MESS.

YEAH.

SHE'S GOING TO DIE TOMORROW, ISN'T SHE? IT'S GOING TO RIP HER INTO PIECES.

MOST LIKELY.

I NEED MORE BEER.

GIRLS, WE'RE HOME.

WHO WANTS TO ORDER PIZZA?

GIRLS?

AAAA

AAA

MARK! CALL THE POLICE... SOMETHING...

ERICA! ERICA, WHERE ARE YOU?!

NO!

OH GOD...THERE'S SOMETHING IN THE KITCHEN...

WHAT... WHAT IS THIS... I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING...

=HUNH!=

ARE YOU AWAKE?

...I GUESS?

WERE YOU HAVING A NIGHTMARE?

YEAH.

ABOUT THE MONSTER.

IT'S... COOL THAT YOU ALMOST KILLED IT BY YOURSELF. ***JESSICA*** TOLD ME...

THANK YOU.

TOMORROW... SOME OF IT IS REAL, BUT SOME OF IT IS IN YOUR HEAD.

THE MONSTER FEEDS ON YOUR ***FEAR.*** IF YOU DON'T LET YOURSELF GET TOO AFRAID, IT WON'T GET STRONG ENOUGH TO HURT YOU TOO BAD.

OKAY.

I'M SORRY ABOUT YOUR PARENTS. AND YOUR FRIEND.

I'M SORRY I WAS RUDE.

IT'S OKAY.

DON'T DIE, OKAY. I DON'T HAVE ANY SIBLINGS. ALL THE OTHER KIDS ARE ***WHITE MASKS*** AND THEY SUCK, AND EVERYONE ELSE IS OLD AND MEAN.

I'M ***YOUNG*** AND MEAN.

I JUST...

DON'T DIE, OKAY? DO YOU PROMISE?

YEAH.

I PROMISE.

SOMETHING is KILLING the CHILDREN™

"ME AND MY MONSTER"
PART TWO

WRITTEN BY
JAMES TYNION IV

ILLUSTRATED BY
WERTHER DELL'EDERA

COLORED BY
MIQUEL MUERTO

LETTERED BY
ANDWORLD DESIGN

COVER BY
WERTHER DELL'EDERA

GLOW-IN-THE-DARK VARIANT COVER BY
OZGUR YILDIRIM

SCOTT'S COLLECTIBLES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH JAMES TYNION IV
EXCLUSIVE VARIANT COVERS BY
TIFFANY GROVES

DESIGNER
MICHELLE ANKLEY

ASSISTANT EDITOR
RAMIRO PORTNOY

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
JONATHAN MANNING

EDITOR
ERIC HARBURN

SOMETHING IS KILLING THE CHILDREN CREATED BY JAMES TYNION IV & WERTHER DELL'EDERA

BOOM! STUDIOS
WWW.BOOM-STUDIOS.COM

SOMETHING IS KILLING THE CHILDREN No. 17, June 2021. Published by BOOM! Studios, a division of Boom Entertainment, Inc., 5670 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 400, Los Angeles, CA 90036-5679. Something is Killing the Children is ™ & © 2021 James Tynion IV & Werther Dell'Edera. All rights reserved. BOOM! Studios™ and the BOOM! Studios logo are trademarks of Boom Entertainment, Inc., registered in various countries and categories. All characters, events, and institutions depicted herein are fictional. Any similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, events, and/or institutions in this publication to actual names, characters, and persons, whether living or dead, events, and/or institutions is unintended and purely coincidental. BOOM! Studios does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories, or artwork. **PRINTED IN CANADA.**

BOOM! STUDIOS™

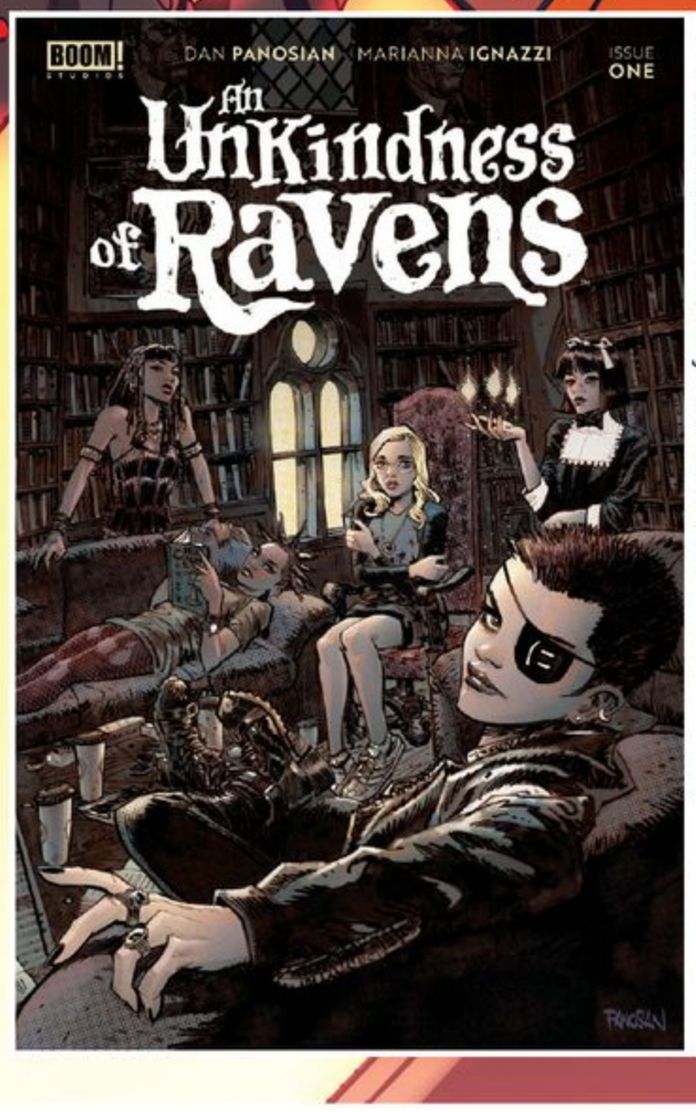
NEW RELEASES

"EVERYTHING YOU COULD WANT FROM A COMIC BOOK. TRULY."
—**SCOTT SNYDER,** *BATMAN*

FROM **TOM TAYLOR** *(DCEASED)*
AND **DANIELE DI NICUOLO**
(MIGHTY MORPHIN POWER RANGERS)

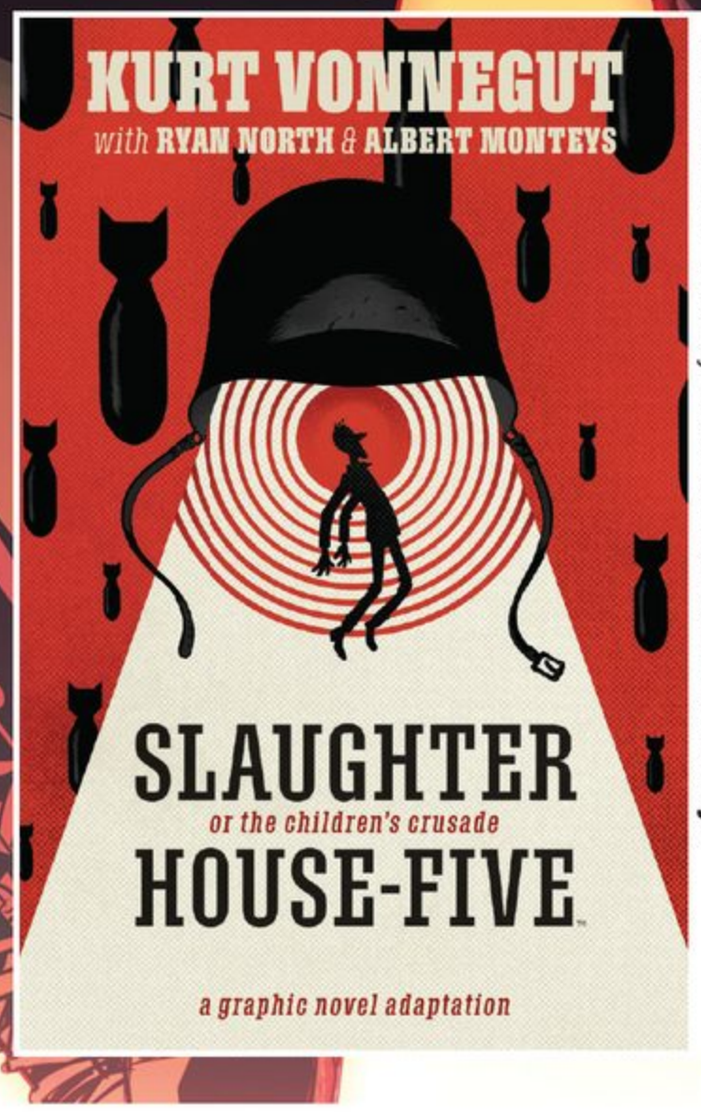
SEVEN SECRETS

AVAILABLE NOW COVER BY **DANIELE DI NICUOLO**



Available Now • Cover by **Dan Panosian**

Available Now • Cover by **Simone Di Meo**



Available Now • Cover by **Scott Newman & Albert Monteys**

BOOM! STUDIOS **DISCOVER** YOURS

/BOOMStudiosComics /boomstudios /boom_studios boomstudios.

Ross Richie CEO & Founder • **Joy Huffman** CFO • **Matt Gagnon** Editor-in-Chief • **Filip Sablik** President, Publishing & Marketing • **Stephen Christy** President, Development • **Lance Kreiter** Vice President, Licensing & Merchandising • **Bryce Carlson** Vice President, Editorial & Creative Strategy • **Kate Henning** Director, Operations **Spencer Simpson** Director, Sales • **Scott Newman** Manager, Production Design • **Elyse Strandberg** Manager, Finance • **Sierra Hahn** Executive Editor • **Jeanine Schaefer** Executive Editor • **Dafna Pleban** Senior Editor • **Shannon Watters** Senior Editor • **Eric Harburn** Senior Editor • **Sophie Philips-Roberts** Associate Editor **Amanda LaFranco** Associate Editor • **Jonathan Manning** Associate Editor • **Gavin Gronenthal** Assistant Editor • **Gwen Waller** Assistant Editor • **Allyson Gronowitz** Assistant Editor • **Ramiro Portnoy** Assistant Editor • **Kenzie Rzonca** Assistant Editor • **Shelby Netschke** Editorial Assistant • **Michelle Ankley** Design Lead **Marie Krupina** Production Designer • **Grace Park** Production Designer • **Chelsea Roberts** Production Designer • **Samantha Knapp** Production Design Assistant • **José Meza** Live Events Lead • **Stephanie Hocutt** Digital Marketing Lead • **Esther Kim** Marketing Lead • **Breanna Sarpy** Live Events Coordinator • **Amanda Lawson** Marketing Assistant **Morgan Perry** Retail Sales Lead • **Holly Aitchison** Digital Sales Coordinator • **Megan Christopher** Operations Coordinator • **Rodrigo Hernandez** Operations Coordinator • **Zipporah Smith** Operations Coordinator • **Jason Lee** Senior Accountant • **Sabrina Lesin** Accounting Assistant • **Lauren Alexander** Administrative Assistant

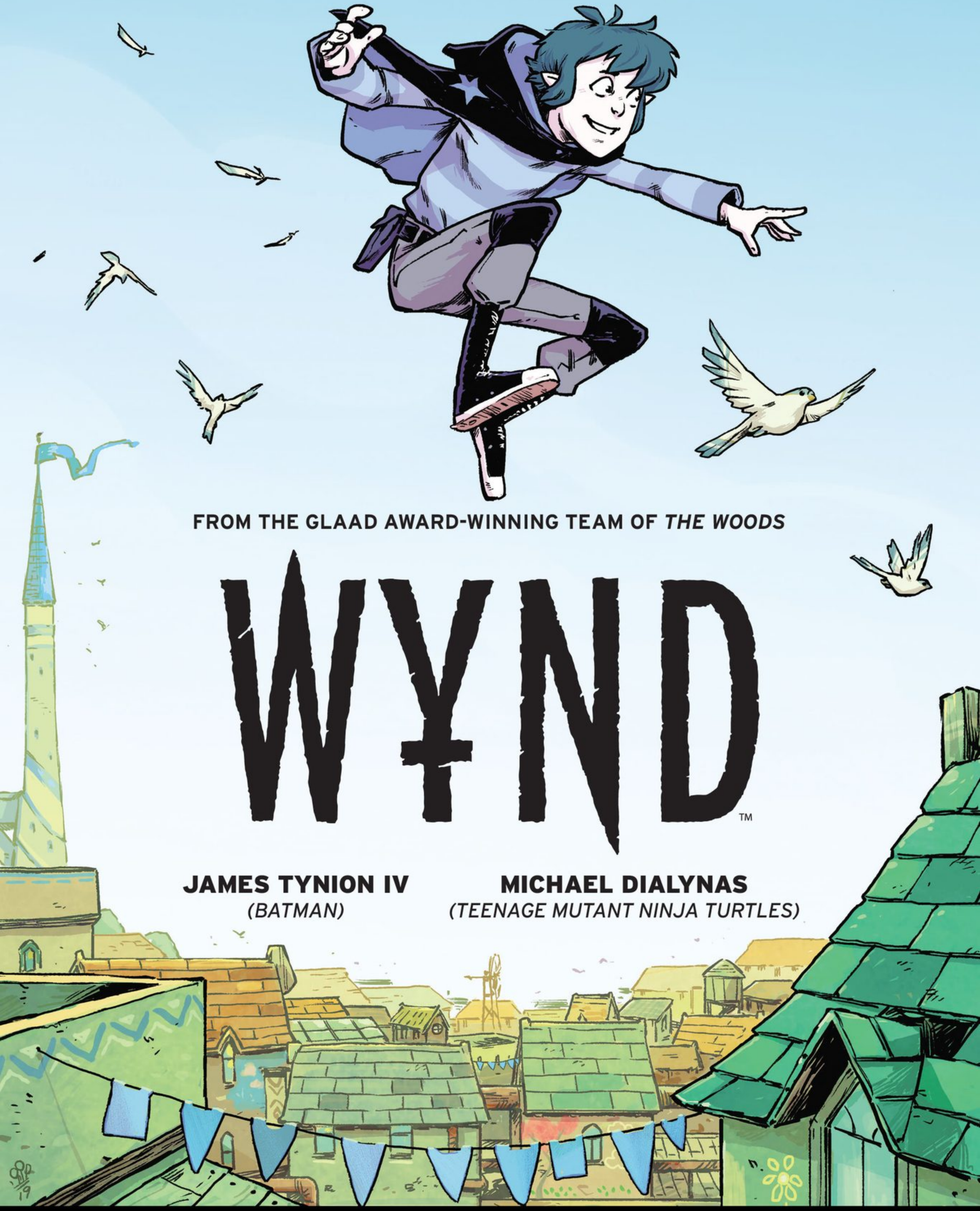
BOOM! STUDIOS **DISCOVER** YOURS

IN STORES **NOW**

WWW.**BOOM-STUDIOS**.COM

BRZRKR is ™ & © 2021 74850, Inc. All rights reserved.

YOU CAN'T FIND YOUR HOME UNTIL YOU FIND YOURSELF



FROM THE GLAAD AWARD-WINNING TEAM OF *THE WOODS*

WYND™

JAMES TYNION IV
(BATMAN)

MICHAEL DIALYNAS
(TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES)

BOOM! STUDIOS™ **DISCOVER** YOURS

WYND ™ & © 2021 James Tynion IV & Michael Dialynas. All Rights Reserved.

IN STORES **NOW**

WWW.**BOOM-STUDIOS**.COM

FROM WRITER

TOM TAYLOR

(DCEASED, INJUSTICE)

AND ARTIST

DANIELE DI NICUOLO

(MIGHTY MORPHIN POWER RANGERS)

"Everything you could want from a comic book. Truly."

—Scott Snyder

(Dark Nights: Death Metal)

"You're all gonna love this book"

—Donny Cates

(Venom)

TOM TAYLOR DANIELE DI NICUOLO WALTER BAIAMONTE
SEVEN SECRETS
VOLUME ONE
"Everything you could want from a comic book. Truly."
—SCOTT SNYDER, BATMAN

VOLUME 1 ON SALE

APRIL 2021

SEVEN SECRETS™

BOOM! STUDIOS™ **DISCOVER** YOURS

SEVEN SECRETS 2021 © & ™ Tom Taylor. All rights reserved.

/BOOMStudiosComics /boomstudios

/boom_studios boomstudios.

WWW.**BOOM-STUDIOS**.COM

ONCE & FUTURE™

NEW YORK TIMES
BESTSELLING WRITER
KIERON GILLEN
(DIE, THE WICKED + THE DIVINE)

RUSS MANNING
AWARD-WINNING ARTIST
DAN MORA
(BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER, POWER RANGERS: SHATTERED GRID)

EISNER AWARD
NOMINATED COLORIST
TAMRA BONVILLAIN
(CAPTAIN MARVEL, DOOM PATROL)

PAWN

BOOM! STUDIOS™ **DISCOVER** YOURS

IN STORES
NOW

ONCE & FUTURE ™ & © 2021 Kieron Gillen Limited. All Rights Reserved.

WWW.**BOOM-STUDIOS**.COM

TWO NEW SERIES. TWO NEW TEAMS.
THE UNLIMITED POWER ERA BEGINS HERE!

MIGHTY MORPHIN

RYAN **PARROTT**
MARCO **RENNA**

POWER RANGERS

RYAN **PARROTT**
FRANCESCO **MORTARINO**

BOOM! STUDIOS™ DISCOVER YOURS

IN STORES **NOW**

WWW.**BOOM-STUDIOS**.COM

Licensed by: Hasbro

POWER RANGERS ™ & © 2021 SCG Power Rangers LLC and Hasbro. All Rights Reserved.

SON OF ULTRON

"THIS FAN... THIS MONSTER!"